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INFORMAL MINUTES OF MEETING OF DIRECTOR, INTERDEPARTMENTAL
FOREIGN INFORMATION ORGANIZATION, AND CONSULTANTS
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28, 1950, IN OFFICE OF DIRECTOR

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Present: Department of State - Mr. Barrett, Director
Mr. Stone, Executive Secretary
Mr. Oechsner
Department of Defense - General Magruder
Joint Chiefs of Staff - Admiral Stevens
National Security Resources Board - Mr. Sheppard
Central Intelligence Agency - [redacted]

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Mr. Barrett opened the meeting by suggesting a quick review of the current situation in Korea prior to consideration of the main item on the Agenda -- the report to NSC on A Plan for National Psychological Warfare.

In the course of general discussion of psychological warfare aspects of the Korean situation, [redacted] stated that [redacted] had placed his facilities in Korea at the disposal of General MacArthur. Admiral Stevens asked whether the Department of State might not take a similar step in connection with its information personnel in Korea.

Mr. Barrett agreed to look into the possibility of making additional State Department personnel available immediately. It was suggested that it would be useful to communicate with General MacArthur regarding his needs for personnel and assistance in the psychological warfare field.

Following the general discussion, the draft of a telegram was prepared for transmission to General MacArthur, inviting his views on steps that might be taken to facilitate psychological warfare operations. The Executive Secretary was given action responsibility for clearing this message through Army channels for dispatch.

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[redacted] raised the question as to whether it would be possible to activate the interim organization at this time in accordance with the provisions of the Plan for National Psychological Warfare. In the course of the discussion it was pointed out by Admiral Stevens and General Magruder that the interim organization could not be formally activated until the Plan had been approved by the National Security Council. Mr. Barrett agreed that the report to NSC should be forwarded quickly. Moreover, it was agreed that the present situation

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called for the maximum effort to secure the most effective coordination to deal with current psychological warfare problems in Korea. Stress was laid on the need for prompt information policy guidance and a mechanism for fast clearance. In this connection, it was agreed that the normal arrangements for comment by the Defense Department on policy guidance was too slow. It was agreed that steps should be taken to expedite action on guidances.

Turning to the report to NSC on A Plan for Psychological Warfare, Mr. Barrett invited comment by the Consultants and asked whether they were prepared to approve the report for transmittal to NSC. The major discussion centered on the provisions of paragraphs 15 and 21 of the report with reference to the subsequent stages of war. With reference to the wording of paragraph 21, General Magruder and Admiral Stevens expressed their preference for the original plan, but said that they were prepared to accept the revised wording in order to assure prompt agreement. Mr. Barrett said that he did not object to the reference to the authority of the Department of Defense in theaters of military operations but thought that a similar reference should be made with respect to the authority of the State Department in areas other than theaters of military operations. Mr. Barrett also questioned the necessity for paragraph 15 but agreed to its inclusion in order to secure approval of the report. Mr. Sheppard thought that the authority of the State Department was generally understood and need not be specifically referred to in paragraph 21.

After full discussion of paragraph 21, it was agreed to amend the second sentence as follows: "This organization should satisfy the requirements of paragraph 15 above, and should recognize the authority of the Department of State in areas other than theaters of military operations and the authority of the Department of Defense in theaters of military operations."

Mr. Sheppard accepted this formulation in principle but said that he would like to consider the wording over night. If he had any changes to propose, he would communicate with Mr. Barrett the following morning; otherwise it could be assumed that he approved the above wording in the report for transmission to NSC.

The minor changes in the draft report were approved and it was recommended that the report be forwarded to the Secretary of State for transmittal to NSC.